



By the King,
A P R O C L A M A T I O N

Concerning the Collecting and Answering His Majesties Revenue Arising by Fire-hearths and Stoves, and the Arrears thereof now Incurred.

Charles R.



Whereas His Majesty for the better Collecting his said Revenue and Answering thereof in his Exchequer, hath by his Letters Patents and Commission under the Great Seal of England, bearing date the Twentieth day of September in the Six and thirtieth year of his Majesties Reign, Constituted and Appointed Sir Denny Ashburnham Baronet, Francis Parry Esq; Charles Davenant Doctor of Laws, John Friend, Felix Calver, Nathaniel Horneby, Patrick Trant, William Bridges, and Richard Graham of London, Esquires, their Deputies, Agents, and Substitutes, to be his Majesties Officer and Officers for the Receiving, Collecting, and Answering the said Duty arising by the said Fire-hearths and Stoves, by vertue of the severall Acts of Parliament in that behalf, or any of them, which did grow due upon the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel last past, for and during his said Majesties Pleasure, and to pay or cause to be paid all Sum and Sums of Money thereby arising or accruing into the Receipt of his Majesties Exchequer, and for the Viewing, Surveying, and Numbering of the severall Chimney hearths, Fire-hearths, and Stoves mentioned in the severall Acts of Parliament relating to the said Revenue; And for the Inspecting and Examining the severall Rolls, Certificates, and Returns thereof made and to be made from time to time into his Majesties Court of Exchequer, or elsewhere, in pursuance of the said Acts or any other thing belonging to the same; And to do and execute all and every other the matters and things directed and authorized to be done by a late Act Entituled, An Act for Collecting the Duty arising by Hearth-money, by Officers to be appointed by His Majesty, or by any other Act or Acts relating to his Majesties said Revenue: His Majesty to the intent that all his loving Subjects may have due notice of the same: And that all his payments of the said Duty may be avoided, hath thought fit, With the Advice of his Privy Council to Declare, And his Majesty doth hereby Publish and Declare his Royal Will and Pleasure to be, That his said Revenue, which did grow due on the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel last past, and so forward during his

Pleasure, shall be Paid unto or Collected, or Levied by the said Sir Denny Ashburnham, Francis Parry, Charles Davenant, John Friend, Felix Calverd, Nathaniel Horneby, Patrick Trant, William Bridges, and Richard Graham, their Deputies, Agents or Substitutes. And that all Arrears of the said Revenue incurred and grown due at or before the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary now last past, shall be Paid unto, or Collected or Levied by Anthony Rowe Esq; Sir Nathaniel Johnson, and Sir Cornewall Bradshaw Knights, and by Robert Knott, and Thomas Duck Esquires, pursuant to his Majesties Letters Patents and Commission made unto them, bearing Date the Ninth Day of December in the Thirtieth Year of his Majesties Reign, or to their Deputies, Agents, and Substitutes: And his Majesty doth hereby strictly Charge and Command all Justices of the Peace, Chief Magistrates, headboroughs, Constables, Tithingmen, and all other Officers, whom it doth or may concern, That they and every of them in their respective Offices and Places, be Aiding and Assisting to the said Sir Denny Ashburnham, Francis Parry, Charles Davenant, John Friend, Felix Calverd, Nathaniel Horneby, Patrick Trant, William Bridges, and Richard Graham, their Deputies, Agents, and Substitutes, in Collecting and Levying the said Duty, whereof they are appointed Collectors in manner as aforesaid: And unto the said Anthony Rowe, Sir Nathaniel Johnson, Sir Cornewall Bradshaw, Robert Knott, and Thomas Duck, their Deputies, Agents, and Substitutes, in Collecting and Levying the Arrears of the said Duty, due as aforesaid: And his Majesty doth hereby strictly Charge and Command all his loving Subjects whatsoever, to Permit and Suffer them the said Sir Denny Ashburnham, Francis Parry, Charles Davenant, John Friend, Felix Calverd, Nathaniel Horneby, Patrick Trant, William Bridges, and Richard Graham, their Deputies, Agents, and Substitutes, according to the Act or Acts of Parliament in that behalf, from time to time to Enter, and make perfect Views and Surveys for the Numbering all Fire-hearths and Stoves in each County, City, and Place within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed; and in case of any Resistance or Refusal, his Majesty doth Command all Justices of the Peace, Chief Magistrates, headboroughs, Constables, Tithingmen, and all other Officers, That they be Aiding and Assisting to the utmost of their respective powers, that such Views, and Surveys may be duly and thoroughly made: And forasmuch as great Differences and Disputes have from time to time arisen between the Officers employed in the Collection of his Majesties said Revenue, and several of his loving Subjects chargeable with the same, touching the said Officers Demanding of the said Duty and the Arrears thereof, by reason of their mislaying or losing of their Acquittances given by the said Officers, and the granting and allowing Certificates for Exempting several persons from Payment of the said Duties, who are not by Law qualified for such Exemption: For avoiding whereof, as much as may be, for the future; his Majesty doth hereby Charge and Command all his loving Subjects, That they do carefully keep all Acquittance and Acquittances from time to time given by any Officer or Officers: And his Majesty doth further require, That all illegal and undue Certificates be forthwith discharged, to the end that no person may thereby pretend to be Exempted from the said Duty, which he ought to pay by Law: And herein his Majesty doth Expect and Require from all his loving Subjects such effectual Care and Diligence, that all concealed Fire-hearths and Stoves may be speedily Detected, all illegal and undue Certificates Discharged, and all other Obstructions in the Collecting and Levying of the said Revenue Removed; And that all persons that shall Oppose or Injure the said Officers or any of them in the due Execution of the said Acts, be punished according to Law, upon Pain of his Majesties high Displeasure, and of being proceeded against as Contemners of his Majesties Royal Authority: And to the End this his Majesties Will and Pleasure may be made known, his Majesty doth hereby Will and Require all Sheriffs, Mayors, and Bailiffs in their several and respective Counties, Cities, and Towns Corporate of this Kingdom, to cause this his Royal Proclamation to be Published in all and every the Market-Places within their respective Limits, upon some Market-day within Eight Days next after the Receipt thereof, as they will answer the Contrary at their Perils.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the 14th day of November 1684. In the Six and thirtieth Year of Our Reign.

G O D S A V E T H E K I N G .

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